



# **LIFT Mobile Navigation Center**

Summary Presentation

June 7, 2019

# Overview

Issues and Opportunities



# 2019 Point In Time Count

- The Point-In-Time (PIT) Count is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Honolulu Continuum of Care (CoC), and is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January.
- The PIT Count provides the community and homeless assistance providers with data needed to understand the number and characteristics of persons who are homeless at one point in time.
- The PIT Count also provides policy makers with data needed to effectively allocate resources aimed at ending and preventing homelessness.

## 2019 Point In Time Count

- From 2017-2019, the total number of homeless individuals on O'ahu decreased by 506 (-10%). From 2018-2019, the decline was 42 persons (-1%).
- In 2019, the total number of sheltered homeless individuals on O'ahu decreased by 298 (-13%) over the past year.
- The unsheltered homeless population in 2019 increased by 256 (12%) over the past year.

	2017	2018	2019
Total number of persons homeless	4,959	4,495	4,453
Sheltered homeless individuals	2,635	2,350	2,052
Unsheltered homeless individuals	2,324	2,145	2,401



# Lost opportunities to assist

- In the City and County of Honolulu, there are over 2,400 homeless, unsheltered individuals on the streets each day.
- These unsheltered individuals generate 911 calls, requiring an HPD officer and/or EMS to respond
- A simple report of nuisance crimes, things like blocking sidewalks, trespassing and panhandling creates a high volume of interactions between our homeless population and the police.
- Consequentially, this creates an opportunity to offer services that could immediately take someone off the streets.

A photograph of a person swimming underwater, viewed from below. The person is wearing a dark wetsuit and a snorkel mask. A large, dark fish, possibly a shark, is swimming above them, its body curved in the water. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from above, creating a blue and green color palette. The overall mood is serene yet mysterious.

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**Pānoanoa ka ‘āina, mānoanoa ka po‘e**

*Scarce is the land, many are the people.*

# Strategies and Resources

Current



# Department of Community Services

- 315 Housing First vouchers for chronically homeless individuals
- Inventory of 61 Special Needs facilities
  - Emergency Shelters – single men, single women, families, youth
  - Transitional Shelters
  - Group homes for runaways, teen moms and their keiki
  - Homes for developmentally disabled
  - Victims of Domestic Violence
  - Family low- to moderate income apartments
  - Elderly low- to moderate income apartments
- Operations and personnel funding for non-profit services in income eligible areas
- 3,700 Housing Choice Section 8 Vouchers
  - Rent to Work Housing Vouchers
  - Family Unification Housing Vouchers
- Rehabilitation Loans
- Downpayment Loans
- Funding for community based development in income eligible areas
- Funding for non-profit developers to construct or renovate low- to moderate income homes and apartments





# Honolulu Police Department

- HELP HONOLULU PROJECT

- In June and July of 2018, the Honolulu Police Department with its community partners conducted evening Health Efficiency Long-Term Partnerships (HELP) operations that assisted 18 and 23 people into shelters respectively.
- During these operations, the HELP participants were limited to the available categories of shelter beds, which were sometime misaligned with the need. Due to the specific categories of the homelessness that are served by shelters, there are times when inventory would suggest that shelter space is available when it is misaligned with the need.
- The HELP operations have become increasingly successful and have shown the need for a Mobile Navigation Center, which could help route people to existing permanent shelters and into necessary services.



# Honolulu Police Department

- In early 2019, HPD initiated Crisis Intervention Team and Mental Health First Aid Training
- HPD is one of four police departments in the nation to receive a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund the CIT training, McCarthy said. The program is endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, CIT International and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- The program is different in that its single focus is officer training. It does not utilize an on-call psychologist model.

An aerial photograph of a coastline, likely in Hawaii, showing a dark, rocky shore with a prominent breakwater or pier extending into the turquoise ocean. The water is clear, revealing the sandy and rocky seabed. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is serene and scenic.

# LIFT Mobile Navigation Center

HONU - Homeless Outreach and Navigation for the Unsheltered



# What is LIFT?

- In June 2018, the concept of a Lift Mobile Navigation Center (Lift) was proposed.
- The “Lift” referred to the lifted park regulations that would be suspended to facilitate the establishment of a Mobile Navigation Center.
- The unrestricted park land would allow the Honolulu Police Department to take over a section of a designated area and be unlimited by current rules, such as permitting, closure times, and camping limitations.



# Partners

- State-funded project that is managed by the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Community Services with support from Honolulu Police Department and in partnership with existing outreach and shelter services.



# How does it work?

- Once a park site is selected, HPD would bring up to 10 inflatable tents made by Pennsylvania-based FAST Shelter that can house 54 individuals or more than 100 family members.
- The area would function as a service-oriented hub where a variety of services and direct access to programs could be provided.

## INFLATABLE SHELTERS



***FAST Shelter*** based out of Philadelphia provides temporary, inflatable shelters to industrial, commercial, and government customers.

- Inflatable Rigid Frame Shelter
- Provides 414 sq. ft of space.
- Unpacked to operational in approximately seven minutes.
- NFPA 701 fire rated, UV coated, waterproof, and 35 mph wind rated.





## How does it work?

- The tents would remain between 60 and 90 days and health care and other social service partners would be based there to help individuals move into a more permanent living arrangements elsewhere.
- In the event shelter space is not readily accessible or when appropriate, the Mobile Navigation Center could serve as a temporary overnight shelter until existing shelter services become available.
- Plainclothes officers would be on hand in the parks and additional patrols would police nearby neighborhoods.

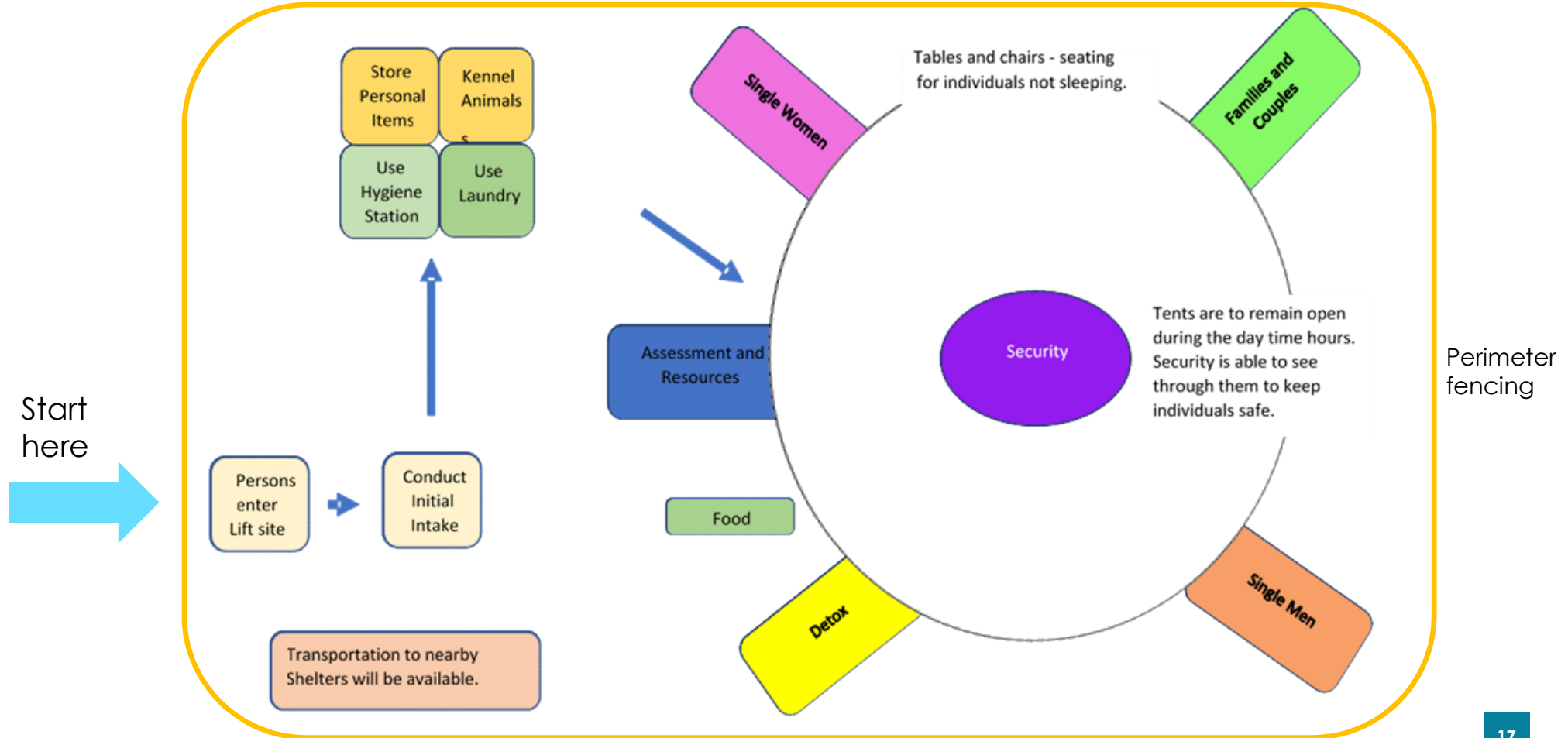




## How does it work?

- At the end of the 60 to 90 day period, the tents would relocate to a different part of Honolulu. And when the zone moves, so do the service providers. That helps bring services to parts of the city where there are not as many service offerings.
- The benefit of utilizing an area park is that it already has laws in place to regulate the area outside of the designated deployment area.
- This will also be useful once the Lift Mobile Navigation Center vacates the park, because officers will be able to utilize existing ordinances to enforce park rules and ensure that the Lift did not create squatters.

# Sample of Proposed Site Layout



An underwater photograph of a sea turtle swimming towards the surface where the sun is shining brightly, creating a lens flare effect. The water is clear and blue, with some ripples visible.

# HONU - Homeless Outreach and Navigation for the Unsheltered

**A`ohe hana nui ka alu`ia**

*No task is too big when done together.*

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# HONU



- The Honu is a symbol of both wisdom and good luck. Also a symbol of navigation for old Hawaii.
- They are considered to be an Aumakua, or guardian spirit.
- These creatures are over 150 million years old, and so it is fair to respect their experience and ability to survive while so many other animals have come and gone, and humanity is just a flash in time in comparison.



## How will it help?

- With on-site navigation staff that serve as a bridge between officers and existing shelter services, this will stream line the verification process, and provide regularly updated information on shelter availability.
- With the Honolulu Police Department and Department of Community Service' robust social service partnerships, the Mobile Navigation Center plans to provide the following primary services:
  - Medical care
  - Mental health counseling
  - Substance abuse counseling
  - Housing navigation
  - Hygiene and laundry services
  - Transportation to shelter



## How will it help?

- The Mobile Navigation Center will coordinate these additional services:
  - Identification card replacements (State Identification Card, Hawaii Driver's License, etc.)
  - Veterinary care for pets
  - Meals (for those that have accepted shelter)
  - Transportation to transit stations (during extended stays)
- The Mobile Navigation Center will provide additional opportunities for data collection
- The Navigation Center will provide a mobile intake point that can be utilized by the Honolulu Police Department and/or State Sheriffs as locations that law enforcement can refer an individual to in lieu of enforcement



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**`Ike aku, `ike mai, kokua aku kokua mai; pela iho la ka nohana  
`ohana**

*Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.*





## Park considerations

- Working together as a team, the Honolulu Police Department, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the City's ADA Compliance Officer and Corporation Counsel reviewed possible locations throughout the island to could host a Mobile Navigation Center that met conditions, including but not limited to
  - being underused or in a location that minimizes negative community impact
  - being ADA suitable
  - close to bus transit for workers,
  - had water and electricity for mobile or portable showers, sinks, restrooms and power for lighting and business operations.



## Park considerations

- Our team has identified Waipahu Cultural Garden Park in an area near the lo'i as one of our first LIFT Mobile Navigations Center locations.
- We believe that situating Mobile Navigation Center here will help address the concerns that have been raised by Waipahu community leaders regarding:
  - Hans L'Orange Park,
  - Waipahu Florist,
  - St. Joseph's bridge
  - Village Park undeveloped area
  - Waikele Gulch and
  - Waipahu Cultural Garden Park annex areas.

# Waipahu Cultural Garden Park



Looking toward field

- Large open field
- Clear field of vision for on-site operations and security personnel
- Away from day-to-day business operations at Plantation Village (Major Okada building) and agricultural operations (lo'i)

# Waipahu Cultural Garden Park

- Away normal flow of traffic (Andy Anderson Way)
- Existing ADA accessible ramp to field
- NOTE for operations and security: Waipahu Intermediate School keiki travel to and from school near train tracks; need to ensure safe passage





# Questions and Answers

- Project Team
  - Pamela A. Witty-Oakland, Director, Department of Community Services
  - Susan Ballard, Chief of Police, Honolulu Police Department
  - Mike Lambert, Captain, HPD HELP unit (the Health, Efficiency, Long-Term Partnerships program)
  - J. Dan O'Neal, Sergeant, HPD HELP unit
  - Leina'ala Nakamura, Administrator, American Job Center, Department of Community Services
  - Darrell Young, Executive Assistant to the Director, Department of Community Services





**THANK YOU**